

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) A method for issuing notification messages to users of a computer network, the method comprising:

creating, within a notification message distribution component, a distribution list of a first group of users to receive notification messages pertaining to a specified one of multiple different business computer applications, the distribution list being generated, without requiring users to select notification messages they are to receive, by identifying, from stored application-to-role assignment information and from stored user-to-role assignment information, users having a pre-assigned role that is a pre-assigned role for the specified one business computer application, from a role-to-user assignment and from an application-to-role assignment, wherein the stored application-to-role assignment information and the stored user-to-role assignment information define which of the multiple different business computer applications a user is allowed to access each user in the first group has access to information in a business application used in the application-to-role assignment;

receiving, at the notification message distribution component, a message indicating that a current value of a predetermined variable in the specified one business computer application is in a predetermined relation to a reference value; and

issuing, from the notification message distribution component, a first notification message to a communication device corresponding to each user in the first group when a current

~~value of a predetermined variable in the business application is in a predetermined relation to a reference value.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
issuing, from the notification message distribution component, a further notification message to a communication device corresponding to a further user outside the first group of users in the event that during a predetermined time period no user from the first group has confirmed reception of the first notification message.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein reception of the first notification message is confirmed when one or more users from the first group returns a receipt message.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising assigning a unique identification number to the first notification message such that the communication device returns the identification number as part of the receipt message.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the further notification message has a description portion to indicate being the further notification.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the further user has a supervisory relationship with the first group of users.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the first notification message is issued to the communication device such that the communication device visually presents the first notification message.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the communication device is a personal computer with electronic mail.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the communication device visually presents the first notification message as a hyperlink to a full version of the first notification message.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the distribution list is created after detecting that the current value of predetermined variable in the business application is in the predetermined relation to a reference value.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the application-to-role assignment includes an alert-type-to-role assignment.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving subscription requests to selectively add or remove individual users to or from the distribution list.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium or propagated signal having embodied thereon a computer program configured to issue notification messages, the medium or signal comprising one or more code segments configured to:

~~store, within a notification message distribution component, a distribution list of a first group of users to receive notification messages pertaining to a specified one of multiple different business computer applications, the distribution list being generated, without requiring users to select notification messages they are to receive, by identifying, from stored application-to-role assignment information and from stored user-to-role assignment information, users having a pre-assigned role that is a pre-assigned role for the specified one business computer application, that is derived from a role-to-user assignment and from an application-to-role assignment, wherein the stored application-to-role assignment information and the stored user-to-role assignment information define which of the multiple different business computer applications a user is allowed to access each user in the first group has access to information in a business application used in the application-to-role assignment;~~

receive, at the notification message distribution component, a message indicating that a current value of a predetermined variable in the specified one business computer application is in a predetermined relation to a reference value; and

issue, from the notification message distribution component, a first notification message to a communication device corresponding to each user in the first group when a current value of a predetermined variable in the business application is in a predetermined relation to a reference value.

33. (Currently Amended) The medium or signal of claim 32, wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

issue, from the notification message distribution component, a further notification message to a communication device corresponding to a further user outside the first group of users in the event that during a predetermined time period no user from the first group has confirmed reception of the first notification message.

34. (Currently Amended) The medium or signal of claim 33, wherein reception of the first notification message is confirmed when one or more users from the first group returns a receipt message.

35. (Currently Amended) The medium or signal of claim 33, wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

assign a unique identification number to the first notification message such that the communication device returns the identification number as part of the receipt message.

36. (Currently Amended) The medium or signal of claim 33, wherein the further notification message has a description portion to indicate being the further notification.

37. (Currently Amended) The medium or signal of claim 33, wherein the further user has a supervisory relationship with the first group of users.

38. (Currently Amended) The medium or ~~signal~~ of claim 32, wherein the first notification message is issued to the communication device such that the communication device visually presents the first notification message.

39. (Currently Amended) The medium or ~~signal~~ of claim 38, wherein the communication device is a personal computer with electronic mail.

40. (Currently Amended) The medium or ~~signal~~ of claim 38, wherein the communication device visually presents the first notification message as a hyperlink to a full version of the first notification message.

41. (Currently Amended) The medium or ~~signal~~ of claim 32, wherein the distribution list is stored after detecting that the current value of predetermined variable in the business application is in the predetermined relation to a reference value.

42. (Currently Amended) The medium or ~~signal~~ of claim 32, wherein the application-to-role assignment includes an alert-type-to-role assignment.

43. (Currently Amended) The medium or ~~signal~~ of claim 32, wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

selectively add or remove individual users to or from the distribution list based on subscription requests.